

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4994

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MACHEL COMMENTS ON MEETING OF FRONT-LINE STATES

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALISTS ABOARD HIS PLANE RETURNING FROM DAR ES SALAAM, PRESIDENT MACHEL (AS REPORTED BY NOTICIAS SEPTEMBER 9) SAID THAT THE DAR MEETING HAD HAD TWO OBJECTIVES: ONE, TO ANALYZE THE CURRENT STATE OF THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND TWO, TO ANALYZE SPECIFICALLY THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE, INCLUDING THE CAUSES FOR DIFFERENCES AMONG THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

2. MACHEL SAID THAT THE FIVE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION LEADERS WERE AGREED THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE SHOULD CONTINUE: HE DOWN-PLAYED THE LACK OF UNITY AMONG THE COMPETING ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY GROUPS, MACHEL CLAIMED THAT THE FACTIONS WERE NOT

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DIVIDED ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE.

"THE DIFFERENCE IS OVER THE QUESTION OF STRATEGY."

3. MACHEL SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE WAS STILL A NATIONALIST STRUGGLE AND "HAD NOT YET BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE." AS LONG AS THE STRUGGLE REMAINS A NATIONALIST ONE, HE SAID, THE AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM, ARE CAPABLE OF INFILTRATING AND UNDERMINING IT. MACHEL CLAIMED THAT THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE WILL CHANGE THIS. "THE ARMED STRUGGLE WILL TRANSFORM THE CONSCIENTIOUSNESS OF THE NATIONALISTS, WILL TRANSFORM THE CURRENT NATIONALISTS INTO TRUE REVOLUTIONARIES. THIS IS THE REAL FEAR OF IMPERIALISM IN ZIMBABWE."

4. CONCERNING NAMIBIA, MACHEL CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICA FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE TRIBAL CHIEFS, SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA "MUST NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO" AND CLAIMED THAT SWAPO WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT IF SOUTH AFRICA GRANTED INDEPENDENCE TO AN "PUPPET" REGIME OF TRIBAL CHIEFS AND OTHERS. MACHEL WELCOMED THE INVULSION OF ANGOLA INTO THE GROUP OF FRONT-LINE STATES AND SAID THAT ANGOLA COULD NEVER BE FREE WHILE NAMIBIA WAS NOT INDEPENDENT.

5. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO MENTION IN NOTICIAS REPORTING OF MACHEL'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF VORSTER- ISSINGER MEETING OR POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP VISIT OF THE SECRETARY TO AFRICA. (COVERAGE OF WHAT THE MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA NOW REFER TO AS "THE KISSINGER PLAN" MOVED TO INSIDE PAGES OF TODAY'S NOTICIAS. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES FOR MOST PART TO REFRAIN FROM EDITORIAL-TYPE COMMENT IN ITS COVERAGE OF VORSTER-KISSINGER MEETING AND KISSINGER INITIATIVE. DE PREE

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